## **Pre-Visit Preparations:**

## Nametags - Who Am I?

**Objective**: Students will explore the concept of ecosystem. Students will identify limiting factors

that control a particular member of an ecosystem. They will discuss how these limiting factors differ from system to system and from species to species.

**Procedure**: Students will make a nametag. They should select a Wind Cave National Park

community member from the list below to illustrate their nametag. In addition to making the nametag, the students should research the community member they have

selected. A library research period would be helpful.

## Suggested Name Tag List:

Bison Woodpecker Fire Lichen Mule Deer Buffalo Grass

Mule Deer Buffalo Gras White-tailed Deer Chipmunk

Prairie Dog Prairie Rattlesnake
Water Little Blue Stem Grass

Cave Boxwork Bull snake

Ponderosa Pine Blue Grama Grass Pasqueflower Great Horned Owl

Elk Limestone

Cottontail Rabbit Bat

Moth Juniper Tree

Bluebird Soil

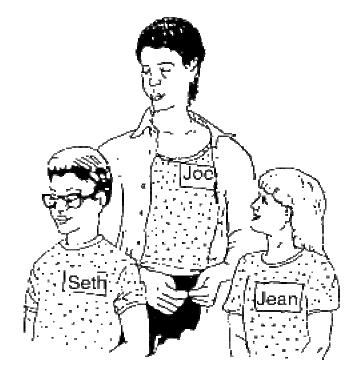
Butterfly Wind Cave Visitor

Antlers Hunter

Eagle Black-footed Ferret

Meadowlark Scat

Bones Chokecherry
Cave Decay ed Plants
Coy ote Grasshoppers
Badger Bumble Bee



Students should arrive knowing that there are three main ecosystems at Wind Cave National Park: the prairie, the forest, and the cave. Have the students imagine that they are their ecosystem member and ask them in which ecosystem(s) they live. What factors can they list that would determine if they could survive within one or all of the ecosystems of the park? How are they related to other members of the ecosystem? How might they interact or be connected with the other part of the ecosystem? When and why are they found at Wind Cave? What components of the environment would limit their abilities to survive? How would a fire, building a parking lot, or expanding farm fields affect the ecosystems or the members of the ecosystems?